

30 JAN 1978

REDRAFT OF LETTERS TO UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS

Dear _____,

Since its inception the Central Intelligence Agency has sought to maintain effective relationships with scholars and academic institutions throughout the United States. Over the years these relationships have been of inestimable value to the intelligence community. I hope and believe that the relationship has been of mutual benefit. In the wake of the considerable public criticism over the past several years of our nation's intelligence operations, this relationship has become somewhat tender. I would like to ask your help and advice in determining how best to restore a useful but proper connection between academia and the world of intelligence.

Clearly there are limits beyond which we in the intelligence world should not go in dealing with members of the academic community. I do have very express rules with respect to that today, but how we are operating within these rules is not always clear to others. Today there are also many new opportunities to use unclassified information derived through the collection of intelligence for the benefit of academic research. I do not believe that we have the proper mechanisms today to insure the adequate provision of such information to academic institutions.

Accordingly, I would like to ask you to join with several other university presidents and ~~myself~~ ^{Wes} here at the Central Intelligence Agency Headquarters on the 10th of March. The objective would be to have a free-flowing exchange of ideas on how to reestablish the academic-intelligence relationship on a sound and proper basis for mutual advantage. This will be a quiet, private meeting of ten to twelve of us, during which we will take the opportunity of asking you to visit our CIA facilities and meet with a variety of our Agency officers representing a diverse group of intellectual disciplines.

My hope would be that in your spending a day with us ^{OUR RELATIONSHIPS} we might ~~improve~~ ^{IMPROVE TO OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT} the problems of the past and the attitudes of the present.

I would be most grateful if you could take the time to do this. I am asking _____, the chief of our office in _____, to deliver this letter personally so that he can be available to discuss my invitation further with you and help to make arrangements if, as I hope, you are able to accept. (Standard letter except to Wes Posvar & Wiesner send new last paragraph.* Don't send Posvar's letter by messenger; send in regular mail.)

Yours sincerely,

STANSFIELD TURNER

* I hope you will bring Millie with you and be our house guests (Posvar only) at ~~the~~ ^{my} Quarters. We would love to see you both again privately and have a chance to visit. All the best.

Dear President Woodin:

Since its inception, the Central Intelligence Agency has sought and benefited from extensive relationships with scholars and academic institutions throughout the United States. Leading academics and some of their best students filled the top ranks of the American intelligence community during its formative years, and have been succeeded by equally vital and skilled analysts from later academic generations. They have brought a high degree of intellectual energy, curiosity, and integrity to our profession and have made sure that our research and analytical efforts take account of the best work of the same character available in the private sector. Indeed, they have organized many of the components and practices of the Central Intelligence Agency on models they brought or have subsequently adopted from academia.

In recent years, however, the Agency and the foreign intelligence profession have been subject to intense criticism in academia. Although much of it was generated by false allegations and by practices and isolated abuses that have been prohibited by the reforms of the last few years, doubts about CIA's mission, standards, and record remain. A climate of suspicion and mistrust now all too often clouds our relations with the academic community.

One of my principal objectives as Director of Central Intelligence is to restore a high degree of mutual respect and understanding between the academic and intelligence communities. My own experience is filled with examples where cooperation between professionals in the two fields has been mutually beneficial both to the individuals and the communities at large. CIA desires the freest possible access to the intellectual resources of America's institutions of higher education to enhance our research and analytical efforts. Conversely, the academic community can gain unique insights, conclusions, and data about foreign areas and international affairs from open exchanges with the Agency. I look forward to the day when a cooperative spirit between the two communities thrives once again.

In pursuit of that objective, I am writing to invite you to be my guest at CIA Headquarters on March 10. I would like you to join me and several other university presidents to visit CIA facilities, meet with officers from a variety of the disciplines and functions that constitute

our profession today, and to hear about some of the new analytical techniques we have developed. We want to be as candid as we possibly can in describing the Agency and its work and in responding to questions about foreign intelligence activities that may have arisen at LSU.

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Orleans, to deliver this letter personally. He will be available to discuss my invitation further with you and to help make arrangements if, as I hope, you will be able to accept.

Yours,

STANSFIELD TURNER

Martin D. Woodin, President
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803